

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 257103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. UNGA ACCEPTS MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE KOREAN RESOLUTIONS

DESPITE VICTORIES ON BOTH THE PRIORITY VOTE AND THE FRIENDLY
RESOLUTION--THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION ALSO PASSED--AMBASSADOR
MOYNIHAN LAMENTS:

--IT IS AMAZING THAT WE CAN GET A MAJORITY ON ANYTHING,
GIVEN THAT THE NEW MEMBERS AND MANY OTHERS AUTOMATI-
CALLY VOTE THE COMMUNIST LINE.

--NEITHER DID WE SWAY THE MAJOR LATIN AMERICAN COUN-
TRIES OR SUCH ALLIES AS GREECE AND TURKEY.

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--EVEN THE AUSTRALIANS, WHO PREVIOUSLY HAD SAID THEY

WOULD VOTE OUR WAY, BOWED TO NORTH KOREAN THREATS AND ABSTAINED ON THE HOSTILE VOTE.

THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT WAS AFRICA, BUT ZAIRE AND NIGERIA DID VOTE AGAINST US. (CONFIDENTIAL) USUN 5452, 10/30.)

2. PORTUGAL: ARE THERE GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM?

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THT PORTUGUESE MODERATES, BOUYED BY AZEVEDO'S RECENT DETERMINED SHOWINGS AND NEW FOUND POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION, HAVE BECOME GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC. MODERATE LEADERS CITE AS ENCOURAGING SIGNS:

--THE FAILURE OF THE OCTOBER 23 LEFTIST DEMONSTRATION;

--THE UNEXPECTED SUCCESS OF AZEVEDO'S VISIT TO OPORTO;

--THE GOVERNMENT'S FIRM RESISTANCE TO PRESSURE WHEN COUP RUMORS WERE FLYING OCTOBER 24;

--THE STEADYING EFFECT OF THE NEW MILITARY INTERVENTION UNIT.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: WHILE ANTUNES, CRESPO, SOARES, AND SA CARNEPRO WERE ALL OPTIMISTIC IN RECENT MEETINGS, IT WAS QUALIFIED OPTIMISM. SERIOUS PROBLEMS REMAIN. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 6359, 10/29.)

3. SOVIETS PUSHING IMPROVED SYRIAN-IRAQI RELATIONS?

A KNOWLEDGEABLE SYRIAN BUSINESSMAN TOLD AMBASSADOR MURPHY THAT MOSCOW HAS BEEN ACTIVELY PROMOTING A SYRIAN-IRAQI RECONCILIATION. NOTING THAT THE SOVIET INITIATIVE ORIGINATED DURING ASAD'S MOSCOW VISIT EARLIER THIS MONTH, THE SOURCE ADDED:

--THE SOVIETS ARE AFRAID OF "LOSING" SYRIA AND ARE PUSHING RECONCILIATION TO BUTTRESS THEIR POSITION.

--BAGHDAD-DAMASCUS COMMUNICATIONS ARE BEING PASSED
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PRIMARILY THROUGH BAATH PARTY CHANNELS.

THE SOURCE OPINED THAT ISRAEL'S HARD STANCE ON GGOLAN WAS WORKING AGAINST ISRAELI INTERESTS BY TYING ASAD'S HANDS AND PUSHING DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD TOGETHER. (CONFIDENTIAL) DAMASCUS 4200, 10/29.)

4. ZAIRE REJECTS SOVIET CHARGES OF MEDDLING IN ANGOLA

PRESIDENT MOBUTU CONVOKED AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF ZAIRES POLITICAL BUREAU OCTOBER 29 TO DEAL WITH A SOVIET DEMARCHE ACCUSING ZAIRES OF INTERFERENCE IN ANGOLA. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, THE BUREAU ISSUED A STATEMENT WHICH:

--EXCORIATED THE SOVIETS, ACCUSING THEM OF "DELIBERATE PROVOCATION, SLANDEROUS ACCUSATION, INTIMIDATION, AND INTOLERABLE THREATS;"

--BLAMED MOSCOW AND ITS "MPLA PUPPET" FOR THE FRATRICIDAL CONFLICT IN ANGOLA;

--ACCUSED THE SOVIETS AND THEIR SATELLITES OF SUBVERSION THROUGH AFRICA;

--THREATENED TO SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW. (UNCLASSIFIED) KINSHASA 9491, 10/29.) KISSINGER

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